

# DECISION



THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL  
OF THE UNITED STATES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

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FILE: B-213299

DATE: December 13, 1983

MATTER OF: Le Prix Electrical Distributors, Ltd.

## DIGEST:

Under small purchase procedures, offerors are responsible for the timely receipt of their quotations and an untimely quotation need not be considered for award.

Le Prix Electrical Distributors, Ltd. protests the rejection of its quotation as late under request for quotations RFQ-01-83-10 issued by the Forest Service for electrical fixtures and supplies. Le Prix maintains that its quotation was mailed in a timely manner and should have been considered for award. We deny the protest.

Eleven quotations were received by the Forest Service in Pasadena, California by the time designated in the RFQ, the close of business on Friday, September 16. Le Prix's quotation, mailed from Fort Lauderdale, Florida on September 12, was not received until the following Monday, September 19, after award had been made to Revere Electric Supply Co. Le Prix's unopened quotation, mailed back to it on September 23, was received by it on September 26.

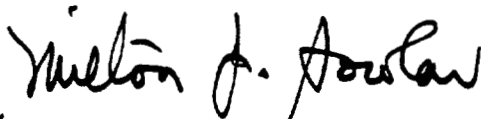
Le Prix asserts that it is highly unlikely that its quotation was not received on time, since the return mailing took only 4 days, and concludes from this that its quotation was mishandled by the Forest Service. Le Prix further argues that even if untimely, its quotation should have been considered for award under the less formal procedures applicable to small purchases.

We find that the contracting officer properly rejected Le Prix's quotation. In this regard, Le Prix had the responsibility to assure the timely receipt of its quotation and must bear the responsibility for choosing to deliver its quotation by mail. United Aircraft and Turbine Corporation, B-210052, July 6, 1983, 83-2 CPD 58. Further, a protester alleging timely receipt of its quotation must affirmatively prove its case. United Aircraft and Turbine Corporation, supra. Neither the fact that the return

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mailing took 4 days nor the bare allegation of government mishandling, and nothing more, satisfies this burden. Moreover, absent a showing that the agency deliberately avoided award to the offeror, an otherwise proper award made under the less formal procedures applicable to small purchases need not be disturbed even where that offeror's quotation, timely received, is misplaced. R. E. White & Associates, Inc., B-205489, April 1, 1982, 82-1 CPD 294.

The protest is denied.

  
for Comptroller General  
of the United States